

Claims:

Sub A' 1. A cordless telephone, comprising:
2 a base unit; and
3 a handset, the handset including
4 a keypad,
5 a key scan element adapted to scan the keypad for a predetermined key
6 sequence, and
7 a controller adapted to cause the initiation of an outgoing call based on a
8 determination of the predetermined key sequence.

Sub A' 2. A cordless telephone as recited in claim 1, wherein the outgoing call is initiated to
a telephone number corresponding to the predetermined key sequence.

3. A cordless telephone as recited in claim 1, wherein the predetermined key
sequence is 9-1-1.

4. A cordless telephone as recited in claim 1, wherein the base unit is adapted to
establish a link with a network based on a signal from the controller in the handset, to
sense a dial tone, and to output dual tone multifrequency signals corresponding to a
number to be dialed to the network.

5. A cordless telephone as recited in claim 4, wherein the network is a public
switched telephone network.

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- 1 6. A handset for a cordless telephone, comprising:
2 a keypad,
3 a key scan element adapted to scan the keypad for a predetermined key
4 sequence, and
5 a controller adapted to cause the initiation of an outgoing call based on a
6 determination of the predetermined key sequence.

- 1 7. A handset as recited in claim 6, wherein the controller is adapted to output a
2 signal to a corresponding base unit based on the determination of the predetermined key
3 sequence.

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- 1 8. A handset as recited in claim 7, further comprising an RF transceiver, wherein the
2 signal is output to the base unit via the RF transceiver.

- 1 9. A handset as recited in claim 7, wherein the signal informs the base unit that the
2 predetermined key sequence has been detected.

- 1 10. A handset as recited in claim 7, wherein the signal comprises a dialing sequence
2 of a number to be dialed.

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- 1 11. A handset as recited in claim 10, wherein the dialing sequence corresponds to the
2 predetermined key sequence.

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1 12. A method of placing a telephone call from a cordless telephone handset that is in
2 an on-hook condition, comprising the steps of:

3 sensing the activation of a predetermined key sequence; and

4 initiating a telephone call based on the sensed activation.

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2 13. A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the telephone call is to a telephone
number corresponding to the predetermined key sequence.

1 14. A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the predetermined key sequence is 9-1-

2 1.

1 15. A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the initiating step includes sending a
2 signal to a corresponding base unit.

1 16. A method as recited in claim 15, wherein the signal indicates detection of the
2 predetermined key sequence.

1 17. A method as recited in claim 15, wherein the signal includes a dialing sequence.

1 18. A method as recited in claim 17, wherein the dialing sequence corresponds to the
2 predetermined key sequence.

1 19. A method as recited in claim 15, wherein the signal is sent via an RF link.